

THE BIRDS OF CEDAR POINT AND VICINITY.

BY LYND S. JONES.

221. *Oporornis formosa*.—Kentucky Warbler.

At best an irregular spring migrant. Probably the venturesome males which over-reach the migrating host during the height of the fever of spring migration retire southward when no mates appear. Records for the immediate vicinity of Oberlin are: May, 12, 1903; May 15, 1906; May 13, 1907; May 14, 1908; one on each occasion. Cedar Point sand spit records are April 27 and May 23, 1904; May 13, 1907. two birds; these records are actually for the marsh at Rye Beach, at the extreme east end of the series of marshes. The birds have always been found in wet or swampy situations, always near the ground on some fallen wood. The increasing frequency of occurrence in later years gives me hope that this interesting warbler may ultimately become a summer resident and enliven our woods with his rich melody.

222. *Oporornis agilis*.—Connecticut Warbler.

A spring migrant in small numbers, never having been noted in fall. The migration dates fall within the last two weeks of May, with the exception of May 7 and 9, 1904. These early dates would indicate that this warbler belongs in the early May group rather than among the latest of the migrants. I have invariably found it in places of which the marsh border of the sand spit is typical—in the vicinity of water. It has been heard singing but once, then faintly.

223. *Oporornis philadelphia*.—Mourning Warbler.

A spring migrant in small numbers, but decidedly more numerous than the last species. The median date of arrival for nine years is May 11, and of departure northward, May 25. It has never been found in fall. The typical habitat of this bird while it tarries with us is a low, wet place, thickly grown with rose bushes. Along the sand spit it frequents the button bush thickets along the marsh border. It seldom sings during its passage.

224. *Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*.—Northern Yellow-throat.

Common all summer in growths which accompany wet or damp situations, whether the growths be of grass, weeds, reeds, or bushes. The marsh border of the sand spit, and the grassy "islands" are therefore typical habitats. The median date of arrival is April 30, the range being from April 25 to May 2. The median date of departure is September 23, the last being October 1, 1906, at the

Cedar Point sand spit. The bulk is gone by the middle of September usually. Nests have been found May 30. While there is considerable variation in the rendition of the song, each bird being able to vary its song to a considerable degree, the song pattern is so distinctive that novices have little difficulty in learning it. As one might readily infer, this warbler is present on the larger islands where typical habitats are plentiful.

225. *Icteria virens*.—Yellow-breasted Chat.

A summer resident which is increasing in numbers year by year. Nearly every brushy tangle now harbors a pair. When my studies of the birds of the region began in 1891 it was not easy to locate a pair outside of two or three favored localities. Several pairs nest along the sand spit. Three pairs nested within twenty rods of the Lake Laboratory in the summer of 1907. The median date of arrival is May 5. My latest fall record is September 9, 1899. There were three young found in a nest on August 6, 1897. The birds become silent and apparently slip away south without attracting attention. My visits to Pelee Island have been too late in the season for it. There can be little doubt that it nests there.

226. *Wilsonia mitrata*.—Hooded Warbler.

The first record for the region is May 9, 1901, when two were found singing in the old "South Woods." None were found the following year, but since 1903, when one was found on May 9 and another on May 22, both in the "South Woods," it has been regularly recorded, seldom more than one at a time. It certainly does not remain to breed. It has been found well toward the east end of the sand spit about the middle of May. Apparently individuals do not work much westward. There are no summer nor fall records.

227. *Wilsonia pusilla*.—Wilson's Warbler.

Fairly regular as a spring migrant in limited numbers; recorded but twice in fall. It ranges along the sand spit in the bushes bordering the sand plains. On the mainland it frequents the brushy borders of woods and the smaller growths of the woods. It does not sing much during its stay. The median date of spring arrival is May 13, and of departure northward May 20, the latest spring record being June 2, 1903. The fall records are September 8, 1904, one bird; September 14, 1906, three males in high color, and two birds in immature plumage. One of the remarkable things about this region as contrasted with central Iowa, is that this warbler passed south in swarms in Iowa and is practically absent in fall here.

228. *Wilsonia canadensis*.—Canadian Warbler.

Common during the spring migrations in the more open woods, especially beech woods. Only once noted in fall. It has been common along the sand spit during each migration which I have studied there in spring. The median date of arrival is May 8, and of departure May 23. In 1901, 1904 and 1907 it tarried until May 27. The fall occurrence was September 7, 1901, one bird. It will be interesting to compare records on Pelee island with those from the Oberlin region for the fall weeks.

229. *Septophaga ruticilla*.—Redstart.

Everywhere common in the woods of the mainland, and on the larger islands, as a summer resident. In moderately large second growth beech woods it is even abundant. The median date of arrival is May 1. It is often common from the first. I have found nests with young June 1. The latest fall record is October 7, 1907, when three individuals were noted. It is not uncommon along the sand spit in the spring migrations, but is uncommon or absent in summer. I did not find any in the summer of 1907. In its passage northward it comes into towns and parks, singing almost incessantly.

230. *Anthus rubescens*.—Pipit.

Regular but seldom common as a spring migrant, irregular in fall. Always seen in flocks numbering from a few individuals to several hundred, and most often found on freshly plowed fields in spring, where it is feeding. Flocks have been seen flying over the sand spit and marsh, both spring and fall. The median date of spring arrival is May 4, but the range is from March 23, 1907, when a flock of 15 was noted, to May 26, 1899, which is the latest spring record. Fall records range from September 14 to October 19. Clearly these records are too variable to afford any clue to the usual times of migration, if there be any. Flocks of Pipits can be readily distinguished from flocks of the larks or any other flocking birds by their erratic flight and by the vertical crisscrossing of the individuals of the flock.

231. *Mimus polyglottos*.—Mockingbird.

The only absolutely authentic record is of a specimen in the possession of Mr. R. E. Jump, who captured it at Oberlin, date not known. Professor Edward Dickinson, who knows the bird well, reported one seen and heard singing by him near Oberlin in May, 1908. Persistent reports of its occurrence near Cleveland, and its evident increase in numbers southward in the state, lead one to hope that it is gradually extending its range well northward.

232. *Dumetella carolinensis*.—Catbird.

Common all summer in bushy situations. It is a familiar bird in door-yards if the back lots furnish suitable breeding places. In the borders of woods it seems to prefer to nest in hawthorn trees. It is one of the most familiar birds about the Lake Laboratory, and all along the sand spit, where it nests in great numbers. The median date of arrival is April 27. The latest fall record is October 16, 1905. The most of the birds have gone south by the first week in October. It seems strange that there are still persons who regard the Catbird as a witch, and who destroy its nest and young on every opportunity. Unlike the Brown Thrasher, this bird prefers the seclusion of a tangle from which to sing. In my opinion its ventriloquial powers have been a good deal overstated. It has some powers of mimicry, but it also has its own song pattern, to which it is inclined to adhere pretty closely.

233. *Toxostoma rufum*.—Brown Thrasher.

Far less common than the preceding species, except during the spring migration along the sand spit, when it is usually almost abundant. Its proper setting in this region is an osage orange hedge-row, at least during the nesting season. It also frequents brushy woods and neglected fence rows. Along the sand spit it is pretty closely confined to the bushes, nesting about the Lake Laboratory. The median date of arrival is April 11, but there are four March records, the earliest being March 22, 1902 and 1904. One individual remained in Oberlin all winter 1906-7. The latest fall date is October 16, 1905. It has not seemed to be present along the sand spit with the advent of fall weather, much to my surprise. Its spring arrival is heralded by a burst of song, which the bird pours forth from the topmost point of an osage orange plant. In snowy weather it retires to the brush and becomes silent. Nests are most numerous in the osage orange hedge-rows, but the birds occasionally build elsewhere. One pair successfully reared a brood of five in the midst of a brush heap in a hog pasture, in 1909.

234. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*.—Carolina Wren.

The first authentic record for this wren is September 6, 1899, at Chance Creek, in the eastern part of the Vermilion quadrangle. Since that time there has been a gradual increase, until today there is no river gorge which does not harbor several pairs. It has been found in winter and spring on the sand spit, particularly about the resort grounds, but also eastward and near the Lake Laboratory. I have found it on East Sister and Pelee Islands, where permanent colonies seem to have been established. It has not yet become nu-

merous enough to dare breeding about human habitations, but each spring it is heard singing in Oberlin. Three pairs regularly nest in the Vermilion river gorge at Birmingham.

235. *Thryomanes bewickii*.—Bewick's Wren.

May 22, 1909, one was heard singing at Berlin Heights by Rev. W. L. Dawson and the writer. There are other conjectural records, one for Elyria and one for Oberlin, but on neither occasion were the circumstances sufficiently favorable to warrant positive statements.

236. *Troglodytes aedon*.—House Wren.

A common summer resident in orchards, but much less common in woods and about barns in town. The median date of arrival is April 24. It seems to leave the vicinity of its nesting places rather early in September, but I found it in considerable numbers along the marsh border of the sand spit as late as October 15, 1906. There it was acting so much like a Winter Wren or one of the marsh wrens that one had to be sacrificed to make identification satisfactory. There is no bird more useful in an orchard than one of these wrens, and owners of orchards will do well to either leave hollow limbs for them to use, or supply boxes or other receptacles in which they may build.

237. *Tannus hiemalis*.—Winter Wren.

Of regular occurrence in winter, but irregular in its fall arrival. My dates range from September 14 to October 18 for firsts. The median date of spring departure is May 8, but the latest record is May 17, 1898. The bird seems to prefer an old brush heap or a fallen log which is partly covered with brush and vines, or is hollow. On the sand spit it is found near the marsh border among the bushes. I have never found it there in the dead of winter. It sings sweetly in its brushy retreat in spring, or scolds in a tempest of harsh rattling calls.

238. *Cistothorus stellaris*.—Short-billed Marsh Wren.

This little wren escaped notice until May 12, 1900, when one was found in a small swamp south of Oberlin, and another one in the quarry region north. Since that time it has been found in small numbers in the grassy borders of the marshes at the lake, including Cedar Point, all summer. It arrives about the first of May. I have no fall or late summer records. As indicated, its proper setting is the coarse grass which grows at the borders of marshes, or in low, damp situations.

239. *Telmatodytes palustris*.—Long-billed Marsh Wren.

Abundant in all of the larger marshes all summer, and a few pairs are to be found in most of the smaller marshes. This wren belongs to the cat-tail zones of the marshes, always placing its nest above water among the cat-tail stems and reeds. The median date of arrival is April 22 at Cedar Point, where the only reliable records can be secured. I found it there on November 19, 1906, and October 21, 1907. I am of the opinion that it remains in the marshes until the approaching cold forces it southward by reason of scarcity of food. It is just as characteristic of the marshes in summer as are the marsh vegetation and water.

240. *Certhia familiaris americana*.—Brown Creeper.

Often common in the migrations, regular in small numbers all winter. The spring migration occurs about the 20th of April. The median date of spring departure is April 29, and of fall arrival, October 2, but fall records are too variable to make positive statements possible. It has been found in considerable numbers in both migrations along the sand spit. The proper setting for this bird is the deeper woods in winter, and any place where there are trees during the migrations. It wanders about with the troops of small birds in winter.

241. *Sitta carolinensis*.—White-breasted Nuthatch.

Common all the year wherever there are trees. It is a regular visitor to the lunch counter in winter, and is a most efficient help in the orchard at any time of year. In winter it is usually the first of the wandering troop to respond to the chickadee call. It is present, but not numerous, on the sand spit at any time. I found it on all of the larger islands.

242. *Sitta canadensis*.—Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Decidedly irregular in its occurrence. It is usually tolerably common on the wooded parts of the sand spit in the spring migrations, and usually present all winter on the mainland, in small numbers. It is sometimes common in the migrations in April and early May, and again in early September, but more frequently is represented by a few individuals. It is to be found in the deep woods in winter, anywhere where there are trees at other times.

243. *Baeolophus bicolor*.—Tufted Titmouse.

Tolerably common over the whole wooded parts of the mainland region, all the year. I have not found it on the islands. It is found on the sand spit in small numbers. In winter it ranges along the sand spit, but in summer seems to be confined to the west end.

It is less frequently seen in town than the next species in winter, but singing males regularly visit the college campus during the courting season. This is one of the species always comprising the winter troop of small birds in woodlands. It readily responds to its imitated calls, but is more wary than the Chickadee. It seldom visits the lunch counter in winter.

244. *Penthestes atricapillus*.—Chickadee.

Common over the whole wooded and inhabited parts of the region all the year. It is less common on the sand spit during the coldest part of the winter. It nests in orchards where suitable nesting sites are left. Its confiding habits make it the favorite among our resident birds. The lunch counter is patronized with thanks and the birds proceed to pay their way by visiting the orchard and destroying the eggs of the apple pests.

I have never been able to detect any migration of these two titmice in this region at any time of year. They are decidedly local in their preferences, and can be located even when nesting. On numerous occasions I have started them from their night roost in the thick of a leafy grape vine in midwinter.

245. *Regulus satrapa*.—Golden-crowned Kinglet.

Common during the spring migration, less often common in the fall; wintering in small numbers in cemeteries and other places where there are evergreen trees. In the migrations it occurs over the whole region where there are trees and bushes. It was common September 24 to October 23, and a few to November 5, 1906; common March 25 to April 29, 1907, on the sand spit, but I have not found it there in winter. The spring migration occurs the first week in April, and the bulk has departed before the first of May. My latest spring date is May 10, 1907. The fall migration occurs about the first of October, the earliest being September 24, 1906. The bulk has gone south by the first of November.

246. *Regulus calendula*.—Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Common in the spring migrations, less common in the fall. It is found with the last species, but tarries longer in the spring. I have never found it in winter. The median date of spring arrival is April 13, the earliest being March 25, 1905. The bulk leaves about the first of May, but individuals tarry until May 18 (1907 and 1908). The fall migrations occupy the whole of October. Extreme dates are September 24, 1906, and November 3, 1901. Sometimes these little birds literally swarm over the bushes in the yard and among the apple trees. Rival males display the hidden flame

until one imagines the whole head is fire red. At other times it is hard to see the concealed red at all. Those who have difficulty in distinguishing the immature kinglets from some of the plainly colored small warblers may do so readily by noting the nervous flitting of the wings of the kinglets.

247. *Polioptila carulca*.—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

Regular as a summer resident, but not common. It is partial to beech or oak woods during the nesting season, but may be found anywhere in woodland where the growth is not too dense, during the migrations. It has been common on the sand spit during the days of heavy migration, more common eastward where the width of forest growth is less. The median date of migration in spring is April 23, but the earliest is March 29, 1907. I have never seen this bird after August 15 (1899).

248. *Hylocichla mustelina*.—Wood Thrush.

Common in woodland all summer. It is also a familiar bird in Oberlin back yards and orchards, where it nests. It seems to prefer thick second growth woods, or the lower borders of larger woods. It has always been common during the spring migrations on the sand spit, but it nests sparingly west of the resort grounds, near the Lake Laboratory, and on one of the considerable widenings of the sand spit a half mile east of the Lake Laboratory. The median date of spring arrival is April 27, the earliest being April 10, 1904. My latest fall record is September 24, 1906. I have not found it on the sand spit in late summer and early fall, nor have I noted any southward migration of considerable numbers, which would be the case did the more northerly breeding birds pass southward across this region. Nests containing eggs have been found by May 22. This bird is *par excellence* the nightingale of our woods. To its singing in Oberlin is probably due more than to any other one thing the awakening interest of middle-aged people in the bird life of the town. One can hardly remain indifferent to his surroundings after having heard the song of the Wood Thrush.

249. *Hylocichla fuscescens*.—Wilson's Thrush.

Common in the spring migrations in suitable woods, a few remaining all summer to breed. The Cedar Point sand spit does not seem to furnish the necessary conditions for this thrush. It has been met with there in small numbers during the migrations, but has never been found in such numbers as to be called common. The typical habitat in this region is a woods of tall trees which stand close enough together to furnish a complete shade, with a little un-

derbrush or berry bushes. Woods of this character are not numerous. Its associations are with the Wood Thrush and the Oven-bird in summer, and with the Hermit and Wood Thrushes in the spring migrations. The median date of spring arrival is April 29, the earliest record is April 20, 1899. I have no reliable fall records. There has never been any fall movement noted.

250. *Hylocichla aliciae*.—Gray-cheeked Thrush.

Prior to 1898 the problem of distinguishing this thrush from the next had not been solved. Since that time it has been found fairly common in the spring migrations, but irregular in the fall. It has always been found associated with the next species, and the general remarks will be given under that heading. The median date of spring arrival for seven years is May 2, and of departure, May 19. Fall records indicate that it returns near the first week of September and remains a month.

251. *Hylocichla swainsonii*.—Olive-backed Thrush.

This is decidedly the most numerous of the thrushes in the migrations, both spring and fall. Probably because of its numbers it is to be found anywhere that trees grow. The Cedar Point sand spit seems to be a line of migration in spring, and my few experiences on the chain of islands indicate that the island route is abundantly patronized in the fall. The song of this thrush is heard in town, parks, and door-yards during the stress of the migration, where the birds often swarm in the tree-tops and among the shrubbery. On the sand spit they are everywhere, and during the migration of the Sharp-shinned Hawks, suffer from the depredations of this hawk greatly. The median date of migration is, for the northward movement, April 30, the earliest being April 13, 1908; for the departure north, May 25, the latest being June 13, 1905. The median date of return in the fall is September 13, and the departure southward October 4, the latest being October 24, 1896. They usually remain common up to the day of their departure, both spring and fall. On the day of my arrival on Pelee island, August 29, there were none found, nor any the next day in spite of a careful search, but with the first faint dawn of the 31st the peculiar notes of this bird were heard, and the full light revealed hundreds of them in the bushes and everywhere in the woods. They remained thus numerous until my departure the evening of the next day, and were common on Middle and Kelley's islands.

252. *Hylocichla guttata pallasii*.—Hermit Thrush.

Always present, but not always common, during the spring migration, and practically always present during the fall migration, always in the woods or door-yards which have trees or bushes. It has been common on the sand spit in each migration that I have studied the birds there, and usually so numerous that the birds spread well over the whole of the sand spit. The median date of spring arrival is April 2, the earliest March 21, 1903; the median date of spring departure is May 5, the latest May 20, 1907. The birds usually return late in September and remain about a month. One was found in the thicket covering an old quarry dump on December 4, 1903, in the Oberlin quadrangle. This thrush seldom sings during its passage, and then apparently only the ghost of the song which is characteristic of its summer home.

253. *Plaucsticus migratorius*.—Robin.

Always abundant during the migrations, and common in the vicinity of human habitations during the summer. It might rightly be termed abundant in towns. It has not been really common on the sand spit in the summer, and is usually not as numerous there in the migrations as it is on the mainland on the same dates. In the spring migrations it sometimes forms into great flocks. The median date of spring arrival is February 28, the earliest for actually migrating birds being February 14, 1897. The great southward migration occurs late in October, with the first touch of winter. Since the winter of 1894-5, when the great storm in Kentucky and Tennessee killed countless numbers of this and the next species, Robins have been found in this region all winter in small numbers. Several regularly pass the winter in Oberlin. Nest building is in progress late in March, and two or three broods are raised.

254. *Sialia sialis*.—Bluebird.

It is a common summer resident over most of the region, and has been so except during the years immediately following the disastrous winter of 1894-5, when most of those which passed the winter in Kentucky and Tennessee were exterminated. During the last ten years a few individuals have been regularly found all winter in the region. They nest in the more open country in fence posts, in orchards, less commonly in the woods, and less commonly about human habitations than before the thinning. On but two occasions have I seen anything like a great migration wave, and then in the middle of March after two weeks of unfavorable weather. Then the woods near the lake shore were filled with Bluebirds, which seemed to be moving eastward along the lake

in bands of several hundred each. The median date of spring arrival is February 27, the earliest being February 17, 1897; the median date of departure is October 25. The bulk moves south about the middle of October, or with the first severe frosts. Only a few breed on the sand spit, and I have never found many in the migrations.

ONE DAY'S OBSERVATION OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY BIRDS.

BY LOUIS S. KOHLER.

Appended hereto will be found a list of birds observed in several Northern New Jersey towns on May 26, 1910. This date in this locality is one that may be included in the last leg of the vernal migration period, and, also, one on which an observer may locate a number of species nesting. The country canvassed in securing this list includes Bloomfield, in Essex County, Mountain View, Wayne, Pompton and Pompton Plains, in Morris County, Pompton Junction and Pompton Lake, in Passaic County, and Oakland, in Bergen County. This list includes thirty-eight established residents, five late migrants and five casual visitors, making a total of forty-eight species observed.

ESTABLISHED RESIDENTS

- (1) *Actitis macularia*.—Spotted Sandpiper. One seen at Bloomfield.
- (2) *Accipiter velox*.—Sharp-shinned Hawk. One seen at Bloomfield.
- (3) *Coccyzus americanus*.—Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Two seen along west shore of Pompton Lake.
- (4) *Ceryle alcyon*.—Belted Kingfisher. Common at Pompton Lake and Pompton Junction.
- (5) *Colaptes auratus luteus*.—Northern Flicker. Common at Pompton Junction and Oakland. Few found at Bloomfield and Wayne. Nest found at Pompton Lakes.
- (6) *Chatura pelagica*.—Chimney Swift. Common generally. Nest and four eggs found in chimney at Pompton Junction.
- (7) *Tyrannus tyrannus*.—Kingbird. Common at Pompton Junction and Pompton Lakes. One at Mountain View.